

TMCC Wish List

- Two Gateway 450XL notebook computers for faculty checkout \$4,500
- LEGO® robotics kits for physical science \$3,342
- Slide scanner, Nikon Coolscan, 35mm scanner for media services \$1,179
- Portable smart classroom for graphic arts \$6,980
- Four microscopes for biology \$7,200
- LogicPro simulator for industrial maintenance technology \$960
- DVD player and speaker system for humanities \$300
- Bucket or boom truck for facilities (40-foot boom) \$29,000

Call the TMCC Foundation
at 775-674-7648
for information on how
to donate items or funds.

Gibbons Presents Third Largest Award for Nursing Education in the Country

Truckee Meadows Community College, Western Nevada Community College and Great Basin College received the third largest congressionally-directed grant in the United States—\$750,000—to create a pilot program that responds to Nevada's nursing shortage. Nevada continues to rank last in the nation for its patient-to-nurse ratio.

U.S. Congressman Jim Gibbons (R-Nev.) secured the grant and presented the \$750,000 award to TMCC President Philip M. Ringle at a press conference held in the nursing lab at the college's Dandini Campus. Nursing students, community leaders and college employees were in attendance.

"Quality health care hinges on the availability of trained nurses," stated Gibbons as the impetus for his request for the federal appropriation. "I am extremely pleased that we were able to obtain this substantial amount of funding for a program dedicated to recruiting and training nurses here in Nevada where there is such a dire need as a result of our rapid population growth. It is my hope that this federal award, which is coming straight from Congress, will enable the new fast-track pilot program to graduate more qualified students who can then begin their nursing careers right here in northern Nevada."

Local hospital representatives lauded the funding for nursing education.

"A quality workforce is essential to providing healthcare services for our growing community. We at Northern Nevada Medical Center congratulate TMCC on securing additional funding that will help us meet the future healthcare needs of our region," said Meg Cleary, CEO, Northern Nevada Medical Center.

Pilot Program Background

The 2003 Nevada State legislature mandated that the University and Community College System of Nevada double the number of graduates from all nursing programs statewide by 2006-2007. TMCC created a fast-track pilot program to meet that goal.

"TMCC students can complete the fast-track associate degree program in 16 months, compared to the two or three years it can take to complete the prerequisites and core requirements of a traditional associate's degree," said Dr. Jewel Laguerre, TMCC vice president for academic affairs. "Our first groups of students will begin the fast-track program in May 2004. While that class is already full, interested students should enroll now to complete their prerequisites and general education requirements."



U.S. Congressman Jim Gibbons (R-Nev.) speaks to TMCC nursing students after the presentation.

To complete the fast-track program, students attend college year-round, including the summer semester. "We are condensing the time to complete the degree," Laguerre said.

TMCC recognizes that an intense, fast-track program isn't for everyone. "Students who have already completed their science prerequisites would be well prepared to focus on the core nursing courses and complete the degree more quickly," Laguerre said. "Also, students who already have a bachelor's degree in science and are interested in switching careers would be good candidates for the fast-track program."

Employment Outlook

Students who earn an associate's degree and pass the national NCLEX exam become registered nurses. TMCC graduates have a 96 percent pass rate on the national exam compared to the average of 86 percent.

Career opportunities in Northern Nevada are excellent, and salaries are very competitive. Due to Nevada's rapid population growth and aging population, there will be 662 new RN jobs created annually in Nevada through 2008, spanning all major health care settings and regions of the state.



U.S. Congressman Jim Gibbons (R-Nev.) presents a \$750,000 Congressional Award to TMCC President Philip Ringle at a ceremony in the college's nursing lab.

Thank you

Thank you to these donors for
their recent gifts.

Nell J. Redfield Foundation
\$125,000 for Performing Arts Center

Jacobs Foundation
\$9,092 for scholarships

Michael Dermody
\$5,990 for woodworking equipment

Sybil Abbott
\$1,600 for automotive technology

**Community Foundation of Western
Nevada/Fred Boyd**
\$1,500 for scholarships

Wells Fargo
\$500 for Distinguished Lecturer Program

Linda Brodsky
\$500 for Writers Conference

TMCC Trendsetters

TMCC student Leon Ferran was recently chosen as Soldier of the Year by the Nevada National Guard. He was nominated by his unit and tested by a statewide selection board. He now faces a district selection board that will test soldiers from several states.

Michael Rainey, dean, Outreach College, participated as a panelist at the February membership meeting of the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada. The group discussed strategies for attracting and retaining qualified workers.

Fred Lokken, associate dean, teaching technologies, has been re-appointed to the Downtown Design Review Committee by the Sparks City Council. The committee is responsible for reviewing projects in the Victorian Square area and making promotional recommendations.

Laura Webb, dental hygiene professor, was recently named consultant for the American Dental Society's commission on dental accreditation.

Beth Altergott, administrative aide, Regional Public Safety Training Center, was selected as Employee of the Month for February.

Ron Gasaway, administrative assistant, extended day services, was selected as Employee of the Month for January.

TMCC Quotables

"Because I am doing everything on my own, TMCC helped with lower costs before I went into active duty and now is helping with the flexibility of the online classes."

— **TMCC student Leon Ferran,
Nevada National Guard Soldier of the Year**

"I have always been interested in all things electronic. It is fascinating to go back to school and learn from these young people. They help me. Everybody at TMCC, especially instructor Gary Neace, has helped me beyond my wildest dreams."

— **Allan Stark, TMCC computer instruction
technologies student and intern**

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TMCC is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. Qualified students with physical or documented learning disabilities have the right to free accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities at TMCC.

Trends

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